

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A motor for driving a blower fan comprising:
 - a cylindrical case body having a front end opening portion and a rear end opening portion;
 - a rear end plate fixed on the rear end opening portion of the case body, the rear end plate having a first bearing;
 - a front end plate fixed on the front end opening portion of the case body, the front end plate having a second bearing;
 - a rotary drive shaft inserted into the central portion of the case body, the rotary drive shaft whose rear end portion is rotatably supported on the rear end plate through the first bearing and whose forward middle portion is rotatably supported on the front end plate through the second bearing;
 - a rotor fixed on the middle portion of the rotary drive shaft;
 - a stator fixed on the inner circumferential surface of the case body to face to the outer circumferential surface of the rotor; and
 - a circumferential reinforcing portion element provided in the vicinity of an end portion of the stator,

wherein the circumferential reinforcing ~~portion~~ element includes a ring portion and a cylinder portion extending from an outer peripheral edge of the ring portion, and
wherein said cylinder portion is continuous about a 360 degree circumference.

2. (Original) The motor as set forth in claim 1 wherein the reinforcing portion is integrally formed with the case body.

3. (Original) The motor as set forth in claim 1 wherein the reinforcing portion reinforces a portion of the case body fixing the stator not to be deformed.

4. (Previously Presented) The motor as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ring portion is made of hard material, and the ring portion is fixed on a part of the inner circumferential surface of the case body and formed into an annular shape as a whole.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The motor for driving a blower fan as set forth in claim 1 wherein a length in the diametrical direction of the ring portion is no less than a thickness of the stator fixed on the inner circumferential surface of the case body.

7. (Previously Presented) The motor as set forth in claim 1 wherein, before the ring portion is fixed, the outer circumferential surface of the cylinder portion has a conic surface inclined in a direction such that a diameter increases as a distance from the ring portion increases.

8. (Previously Presented) The motor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ring portion is fixed by press fitting on a part of the inner circumferential surface of the case body.

9. (Previously Presented) The motor as set forth in claim 1, wherein an outer surface of the cylinder portion engages with an inner circumferential surface of the case body.

10. (Previously Presented) The motor as set forth in claim 1, wherein the reinforcing portion is disposed in the case body so that the cylinder portion extends from the ring portion in a direction away from the stator, so that the ring portion is disposed between the cylinder portion and the stator.

11. (Cancelled).

Please add the following new claims 12-14:

12. (New) A motor for driving a blower fan comprising:

a cylindrical case body having a front end opening portion and a rear end opening portion;

a rear end plate fixed on the rear end opening portion of the case body, the rear end plate having a first bearing;

a front end plate fixed on the front end opening portion of the case body, the front end plate having a second bearing;

a rotary drive shaft inserted into the central portion of the case body, the rotary drive shaft whose rear end portion is rotatably supported on the rear end plate through the first bearing and whose forward middle portion is rotatably supported on the front end plate through the second bearing;

a rotor fixed on the middle portion of the rotary drive shaft;

a stator fixed on the inner circumferential surface of the case body to face to the outer circumferential surface of the rotor; and

a reinforcing portion provided in the vicinity of an end portion of the stator,

wherein the reinforcing portion includes a ring portion and a cylinder portion extending from an outer peripheral edge of the ring portion, and wherein the reinforcing portion is integrally formed with the case body.

13. (New) A motor for driving a blower fan comprising:
 - a cylindrical case body having a front end opening portion and a rear end opening portion;
 - a rear end plate fixed on the rear end opening portion of the case body, the rear end plate having a first bearing;
 - a front end plate fixed on the front end opening portion of the case body, the front end plate having a second bearing;
 - a rotary drive shaft inserted into the central portion of the case body, the rotary drive shaft whose rear end portion is rotatably supported on the rear end plate through the first bearing and whose forward middle portion is rotatably supported on the front end plate through the second bearing;
 - a rotor fixed on the middle portion of the rotary drive shaft;
 - a stator fixed on the inner circumferential surface of the case body to face to the outer circumferential surface of the rotor; and
 - a reinforcing portion provided in the vicinity of an end portion of the stator, wherein the reinforcing portion includes a ring portion and a cylinder portion extending from an outer peripheral edge of the ring portion, and wherein, before the ring portion is fixed, the outer circumferential surface of the cylinder portion has a conic surface inclined in a direction such that a diameter increases as a distance from the ring portion increases.

14. (New) A motor for driving a blower fan comprising:
- a cylindrical case body having a front end opening portion and a rear end opening portion;
 - a rear end plate fixed on the rear end opening portion of the case body, the rear end plate having a first bearing;
 - a front end plate fixed on the front end opening portion of the case body, the front end plate having a second bearing;
 - a rotary drive shaft inserted into the central portion of the case body, the rotary drive shaft whose rear end portion is rotatably supported on the rear end plate through the first bearing and whose forward middle portion is rotatably supported on the front end plate through the second bearing;
 - a rotor fixed on the middle portion of the rotary drive shaft;
 - a stator fixed on the inner circumferential surface of the case body to face to the outer circumferential surface of the rotor; and
 - a reinforcing portion provided in the vicinity of an end portion of the stator,
- wherein the reinforcing portion includes a ring portion and a cylinder portion extending from an outer peripheral edge of the ring portion, and wherein the reinforcing portion is disposed in the case body so that the cylinder portion extends from the ring portion in a direction away from the stator, so that the ring portion is disposed between the cylinder portion and the stator.